Oil Import Bill

108. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the oil import bill in the country has been increasing every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the oil import bill and to increase the production of crude oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (d). The import bill for the last 3 years in given below :

Year	Rs. Crores
1993-94	17730
1994-95	17838
1995-96*	24095

*Provisional.

Increase in the quantum of POL imports is on account of higher growth in demand of petroleum products. Import bill is dependent upon (a) international prices of products (b) the exchange reate of Dollar Vs. Rupee and (c) actual indigenous production of crude oil and petroleum products vis-a-vis the demand.

Government have permitted private investment in the refining sector to increase the refining capacity.

Permission has been given to Indian and foreign companies to explore for hydrocarbons in India and for the development of some small sized oil fields and a few medium sized oil fields. This was done to accelerate the much needed pace for exploration in the country and for faster development of oil fields using the latest technology where applicable.

Sarkaria Commission

109 SHRI JAGMOHAN : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission which have been accepted and implemented;

(b) the recommendations which have been rejected and the main grounds for rejection;

(c) whether recommendations of the said Commission are still under consideration; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in taking final decision with regard to the pending recommednations?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS : (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : (a) to (d) : The recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission numbering 247 were placed before the Inter-State Council in its first meeting held on 10th October, 1990. The Council decided to constitute a Sub-Committee to consider the above recommendations and submit its report. Out of 247 recommendations, the Sub-Committee has considered, in its six meetings held so far, 190 recommendations. In the light of the final report of the Sub-Committee and the recommendations of the Inter-State council thereon, a decision will be taken by the Government on the recommenadations of the Sarkaria Commission.

Rootwilt Disease

110. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether measures have been taken to contain the rootwilt disease affecting the coconut palms in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocations made to the State of Kerala for the control/prevention of the rootwilt disease;

(d) whether the disease has been brought under total control; and

(e) if not, the further measures proposed to be taken by the Government to control the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. the following integrated approach of management practices have been taken to contain the root-wilt disease :

(i) Removal of disease affected/senile and unproducive palms.

(ii) Replanting with quality seedlings.

(iii) Introduction of multi-cropping system.

(iv) Adoption of water and fertilizer managemnet and plant protection measures.

(c) to (e). The integrated managemnt practices have been found to be effective in containing the disease. Efforts to control the disease through this programme are continuing with an outlay of Rs.2500.50 lakhs, allocated to the State of Kerala during VIII Plan period.